

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. The Claims Satisfy Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to claims 1-7 and 9 based on minor informalities. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McKechnie (U.S. Patent No. 4,730,897) in view of Takuma (U.S. Patent No. 5,615,045); rejects claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McKechnie in view of Takuma and further in view of Goto1 (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0137729); and rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McKechnie in view of Takuma and further in view of Goto2 (U.S. Patent No. 6,046,855). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, neither McKechnie, Takuma, Goto1 nor Goto2, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests a single microlens array portion having microlenses arrayed in vertical and horizontal directions such that the adjacent microlenses have common edges and the single microlens array portion is rotated by 45° with respect to the X or Y direction, as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action on page 3 admits that McKechnie does not disclose or suggest the above noted features of the claims. However, the Office Action asserts that Takuma discloses these features. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Nowhere does Takuma disclose or suggest a single microlens array portion where adjacent microlenses have common edges. Furthermore, as shown in Figs. 12a-12b, Takuma discloses a longitudinal-stripe lenticular lens screen 14 and a superposed traverse-stripe

lenticular lens screen 23, and the combination of the lens screens which are rotated 45°. Takuma does not provide the benefits of the claimed invention in that the thickness of the transmissive screen can be reduced by using a single microlens array portion, since in Takuma, two lenticular lens screens are required.

Therefore, claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2-7 and 9 depend on claim 1, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdraw of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

III. Provisional Double Patenting Rejection

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1, 2 and 9 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 4 and 6 of co-pending Application No. 10/647,302. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, since this is a provisional double patenting rejection, Applicants will address the rejection when the Patent Office communication indicates that the claims are in condition for allowance except for the provisional double patenting rejection.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 and 9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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